

Edwards found guilty in slaying of sophomore



Christopher Edwards was led out of the courtroom after being found guilty of murdering UNO sophomore Jessica O'Grady on Saturday evening. He will be sentenced in May, and he plans to appeal the ruling.

TAYLOR MULLER
ASST. SECTION EDITOR

Christopher Edwards was found guilty of the murder of Jessica O'Grady, ending a long investigation and two-week trial.

The weather Saturday seemed to mirror the reactions to the verdict at the Douglas County Courthouse, either dark and dreary or bright and sunny. As friends and family exited the courthouse, their allegiances were written on their faces.

A jury of five men and seven women found Edwards guilty of second-degree

murder and use of a weapon other than a firearm to commit a felony.

Close members of Edwards' family left the courthouse, declining comment and shielding their tear-stained faces. But, for family and friends of O'Grady, the moment was "justice being served," said Andrew Winters, one of O'Grady's brothers. His face, despite receiving the news on the front steps of a rainy courthouse, showed the relief he felt inside.

O'Grady has been missing since May 10, 2006. Her body has not been found. Edwards turned himself in to the Douglas County Sheriff's office last

summer, awaiting his trial that started March 19. The two-week trial detailed evidence found at Edwards' residence, including DNA evidence on a Bangkok battle sword and O'Grady's blood on his mattress and walls. The defense argued that without a body, O'Grady was only missing.

Steve Lefler, Edwards' attorney, told the jury during the proceedings that "the state is asking you do something a doctor can't do: asking you to say [O'Grady] is dead."

The prosecution evidence included testimony from Douglas County CSI officers on DNA collection and an expert witness on blood spatters. During the trial, investigators said O'Grady was struck at least seven times with a sharp, thin blade, according to blood spatters.

After the verdict was read, Shauna Stanzel, the aunt who raised O'Grady, said the family was thankful for the verdict, but hoped for her body as

much as justice.

"This has been an arduous 10-month journey for our family and this part of the journey, the legal battle of it, all has come to an end," Stanzel said. "We will still continue to look for Jessica; there are no winners here. Jessica is still dead. She's not in our family; she's not with her friends. We will continue to look for her."

Outside the courthouse, Stacey Folkner, a cousin of O'Grady, said when it comes time for the sentence, she was hoping for "life without parole."

One of the many questions being thrown around after the verdict involved whether Edwards would divulge the location of O'Grady's body.

Lefler declined to comment specifically but said, "I'll explore every option to help my client. But right now, first of all, it has always been our position that he did nothing to this young woman."

Lefler also said there "absolutely, positively, will be an appeal.... I just think you [have] got to have a doctor say she's dead."

While talking to the media afterwards, Holly Stumme, a UNO student and close friend of O'Grady, gave her reaction to the verdict. The large crowd of O'Grady supporters behind Stumme nodded in agreement.

"I think it's just the beginning of the

See **EDWARDS:** Page 2



Jessica O'Grady



Cliff Dochterman talks to the media and members of the public during his campus visit on Monday, March 26.

Athletic director hopefuls from near, far visit campus

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

The final two candidates for the UNO athletic director job made their way to campus last week, and for one of them the trip wasn't very far.

Cliff Dochterman, senior associate athletics director at the University of California-Riverside, flew in from the West Coast to tour UNO and meet with campus groups Monday and Tuesday.

On Wednesday, all Mavericks' Hockey Coach Mike Kemp had to do was take a stroll from his office at Sapp Fieldhouse.

Regardless of the distance they traveled, both men went a long way to press their case for UNO's top athletics spot.

As an experienced fundraiser and nationally recognized administrator who helped UCR move from Division II to Division I, Dochterman stressed his desire to come to Omaha and build relationships with local boosters.

While he emphasized that UNO's current situation was different, Dochterman said Riverside's jump to D-I had positive effects in both the quality of athletes they attracted and the quality of students.

Ultimately, he said one of the most important things he could bring to UNO was his experience with the "team concept" of athletic fundraising where a network of boosters helps drive financial

support in the community.

"These are people that use their sphere of influence and their credibility to say, 'Look, I want you to get involved with our athletics program. I'm already supporting it. We'll get some season tickets, we'll have a barbecue [and] we'll have a lot of fun,'" Dochterman said. "That kind of a thing has been the cornerstone of my philosophy."

Kemp, who has helmed the Mavericks hockey program since its inception 10 years ago, talked about his passion for the sport and his deep ties to the UNO community. Calling the Chili Greens project "the most critical thing to look forward to," he said Mavericks teams like softball and baseball, as well as hockey, deserved top-notch facilities

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Mike Kemp

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Scott Stewart | News Editor

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news@gateway.unomaha.edu | April 3, 2007

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photo by Michelle Bishop

Evidence presented against Edwards included a shovel found in his car, a photograph of the blood stains on his mattress and a blood-stained towel.

end, the long journey; and, maybe, the beginning of healing," said Stumme. Edwards is expected to be sentenced

May 25. He faces 20 years to life in prison for the murder charge and one to 50 years for the weapons charge.

From **AD SEARCH**: Page 1

close to campus.

Perhaps most importantly, Kemp said his extensive background in coaching would allow him insight into the needs and experiences of the various UNO coaches working under him.

"The knowledge and the understanding of what a coach goes through on a daily basis, as an administrator, is very, very important," he said. "Because when you come off a weekend where it may not have gone the way you wanted it to and you don't have a friend in the world, it becomes very important to have an administrator who understands that and can communicate that to you. Having lived that experience for 31 years, I think that is one of the elements ... I may bring to the position."

The decision as to whether Dochterman, Kemp or candidates Bill Weidner or David Miller, who visited UNO the week of March 19 through March 23, will be chosen now rests with Interim Chancellor John Christensen. Former Athletic

Director David Herbster vacated the spot last November in the wake of that summer's financial revelations and their ensuing string of resignations.

Christensen said he would listen to input from various people who had a chance to meet with the finalists and narrow the list to perhaps two he felt were the best fit for UNO. Those remaining candidates would then be asked back to campus for a final one-day meeting before he makes his ultimate decision, he said.

"I think it was a group that has a certain amount of diversity. I think it was a group that is experience-rich in several different ways," said Christensen. "And I'm interested now for the process to move forward."

Above all, though, Christensen lauded the efforts of the 14-member search committee in winnowing the initially large field to a select group of potential department heads.

"Anytime you have over 70 applicants to process in a meaningful, balanced and thorough fashion, it is enormous work," he said. "This committee has worked hard."

News You Can Use

COMPILED BY
SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

Friday is last day to drop classes

This Friday, April 6, is the last day before midnight to withdraw from a general session course with a grade of "W" via E-BRUNO. It is also the last day to change a course to "audit" or change from a credit/no-credit to a grade registration in a course. E-BRUNO can be accessed at ebruno.unomaha.edu

Gandhi's grandson to speak at symposium

The grandson of nonviolent activist Mohandas K. "Mahatma" Gandhi will be the keynote speaker at the School of Social Work's Annual Symposium this Friday. Arun Gandhi's keynote address will be held during the symposium's luncheon and will focus on his grandfather's principles of service to others and nonviolent civil disobedience.

"Having Arun Gandhi with us makes this event even more special to the School of Social Work and UNO," the school's director, Theresa Barron-McKeagney, said in a statement. "He is an active presenter and participant, and those taking part in the symposium will have a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Both the symposium and the luncheon will be held in the W.H. and Dorothy Thompos Alumni

Center, and space for both is limited. For more information, call (402) 554-2792.

Volleyball coach to receive recognition award

Coach Rose Shires, the interim senior women's administrator for athletics and coordinator of the UNO Diet Pepsi Women's Walk, will be honored by the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women at its annual awards luncheon on Thursday, April 5.

Shires will receive the Special Recognition Award at the luncheon. Laynce Keel, information technology services' director of outreach and distance education, will receive the Outstanding Achievement Award and Jennifer Machacek will receive the Student Scholarship Award.

Cindy Sheehan to be on campus

Antiwar activist Cindy Sheehan will be on campus on Sunday, April 15, to deliver a keynote address as part of the annual Omaha Peace and Justice Expo.

The expo will run from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

and will include booths from more than 50 local organizations, businesses and agencies as well as several workshops. Sheehan's address is scheduled for 2 p.m. and will be followed by a book signing.

Admission is a \$5 suggested donation. For more information, including volunteer opportunities, visit peaceexpo.org.

Library Web site offers tax forms

As the deadline for taxes draws near, the Criss Library is offering commonly used federal and state tax forms on its Web site, library.unomaha.edu/special/taxes/2006. It contains Adobe PDF copies of many forms as well as links to other sources for less commonly used forms.

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Student hit by car while walking across busy Saddle Creek intersection



A senior was hit by a car in front of the Homy Inn on Friday night while crossing the street. She was uninjured, even though she was thrown onto the roof of the car. The driver was unidentified and fled the scene of the accident.

photo by Patrick Doty

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SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

"Stop, look and listen" is sound advice, but sometimes it's not enough to make every street safe enough to cross.

Mary, 22, and three of her friends were going to the Homy Inn on Friday night between 10:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m.

Mary, a UNO senior, parked across the street in the parking lot of Sgt. Pepper's Cafe Italian, looked both

ways and began to cross the street.

"I got about halfway across the street when I saw there was a car coming at me very, very fast," she said. "I knew they were going to hit me so I put my hands out to brace myself."

One of her friends, Patricia, heard the accident as she was going into the bar.

"All I heard was a screech, a scream, and 'Oh my God, she got hit,'" Patricia said. "I know they asked if she was all right, then tried to place the blame onto her."

Linda, another one of Mary's friends, was preparing to cross the street when Mary got hit. She said someone else was asking if anyone actually got hit and that the people who hit Mary may not have been trying to blame her.

"They both got out of the car," Linda said. "The people in the car were asking if she was OK, so obviously they knew they hit her."

Linda said the driver was tall, dark haired and skinny. His passenger was shorter and had light-colored hair. Patricia said the driver was a white male and guessed he was between 22 and 25 years old.

"None of us knew what kind of car it was," Linda said, adding that they did identify it as a four-door champagne-colored sedan.

Mary said the car was swerving and hit her on the wrong side of the street. Neither Linda nor Mary said they saw the car when Mary began to cross the street.

"They probably were pulling out from the bar's parking lot," Linda said. "But, I don't know."

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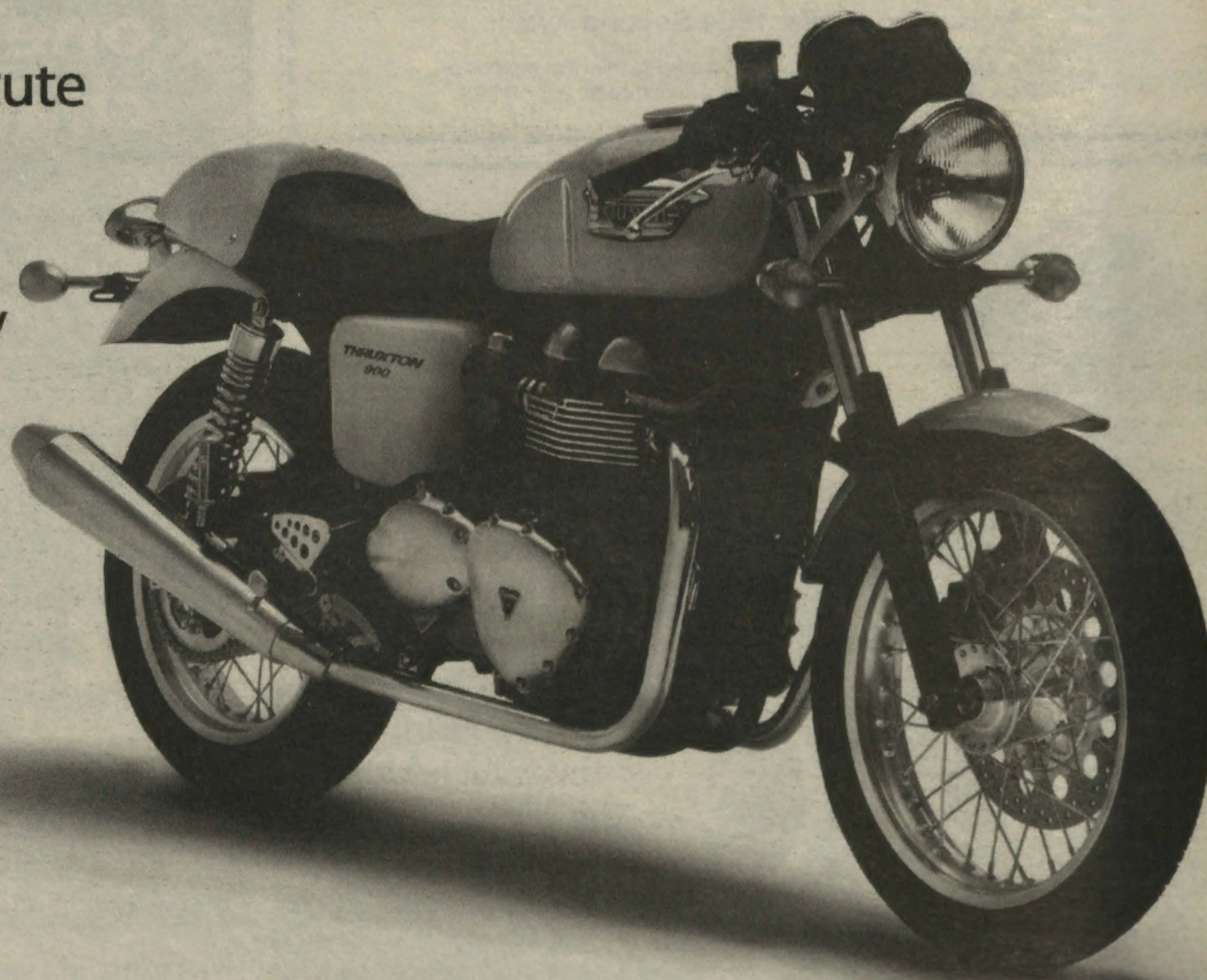
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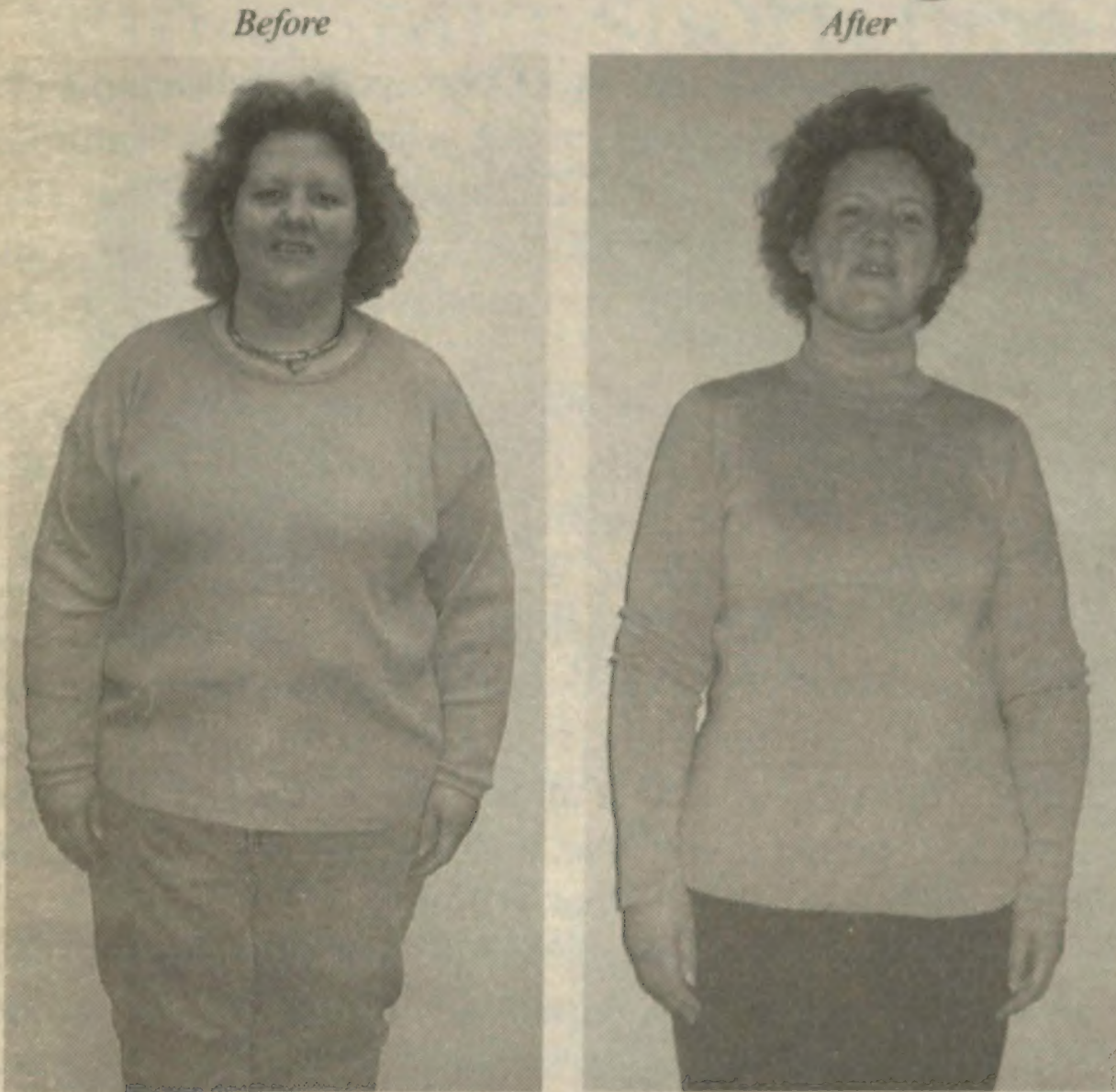
People

Jamee Clasen | People Editor

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people@gateway.unomaha.edu | April 3, 2007

Student loses weight, gains confidence after gastric bypass surgery



Ann Wingert is pictured two days before gastric bypass surgery at 304 pounds (left), and in Jan. 2007 at about 185 pounds.

JAMEE CLASEN
PEOPLE EDITOR

Ann Wingert paid doctors \$23,400 to "make her bulimic." At least, that's how she sees it.

The 37-year-old UNO student has lost more than 120 pounds in the past year. Now she never knows when her stomach will reject her choice of food.

"If I eat a bowl of cereal, I could throw it up 20 minutes later," Wingert said. "And I don't stick my finger down my throat; it's just the stomach does not agree with [my food] sometimes."

It all began near the end of 2004 when Wingert received a hefty insurance settlement after she was injured in a vehicle accident. The settlement paid for her medical costs, her lawyer fees and something she'd wanted most of her life: gastric bypass surgery.

Wingert, who weighed 338 pounds at the time, said she'd been considering the surgery for years before the accident, but her insurance company refused to pay for it.

"Basically it's family history I wanted to avoid," Wingert said, noting that diabetes, heart disease and obesity run in her family. "The risks of the surgery outweighed the risks of living the way I was."

Six months before her surgery, Wingert began exercising with one of UNO's personal trainers. She said she thought it would be easier to begin a regular workout routine before surgery rather than after.

"The surgery is a tool," she said, "[but] you have to move your butt."

Wingert had the gastric bypass surgery in March 2006. In the month following her surgery she was restricted to a diet of protein shakes and "pureed soft mushy stuff," she said. And although she lost about 20 pounds after the first month, she didn't "see" the weight melting away.

"I think for a month or two afterwards you sit there and you wonder ... did they really do the surgery or did they just go in, slice me open and take the money?" Wingert said.

In fact, it took about six months for Wingert to see physical results.

"I know I was losing weight, but I think mentally ... I still looked in the mirror and saw the fat girl," she said.

Over the next year, Wingert mastered portion control, healthy eating habits, cardiovascular workouts and

the value of protein.

"[I used to eat] a lot of carbohydrates," Wingert said. "A lot of bread and a lot of crap. Now it's protein - lots and lots of chicken, lots of fish, lots of salmon."

Wingert weighs her food daily to ensure she doesn't overeat. For example, her stomach can handle approximately three and a half ounces of chicken, she said, which is about one chicken breast.

Although she has made "360 degree" changes to her lifestyle, Wingert said she refuses to deprive herself of food she loves.

"Basically it's moderation," Wingert said. "It's the simple rules. It's like ... I can have a slice of pizza, but that's it. Literally. A slice of pizza and that's it."

Currently, Wingert said she has about 20 pounds to lose before she reaches her goal weight. She said she does not fear gaining the weight back because she is determined to avoid old habits.

"I know this sounds really bad and shallow, but I have 'mental voodoo dolls' I stick pins in and say 'I'm never going to look like that again,'" she said. "I'm never going to shop at Lane Bryant [again]."

For Wingert, her newfound confidence is one of the best parts about losing weight. She said it's the first time in her life that she can remember feeling confident.

"You get treated a lot differently [when you're overweight]," she said. "Like you can't do anything or you're lazy ... you get ignored a lot."

Now she enjoys blending in, she said. "Sometimes it's better to be average."

Wingert is quick to defend her surgery to those who think she took the easy way out.

"I still have to hit the gym," she said. "It's not an easy way out. You are going through major surgery ... you might die. It's not easy."

At first Wingert said she didn't want to tell anyone about her surgery. But now she wants to tell everyone. She said she hopes her story will inspire others considering gastric bypass to go through with the surgery.

"It's [going to] be hell but it's worth it," she said.

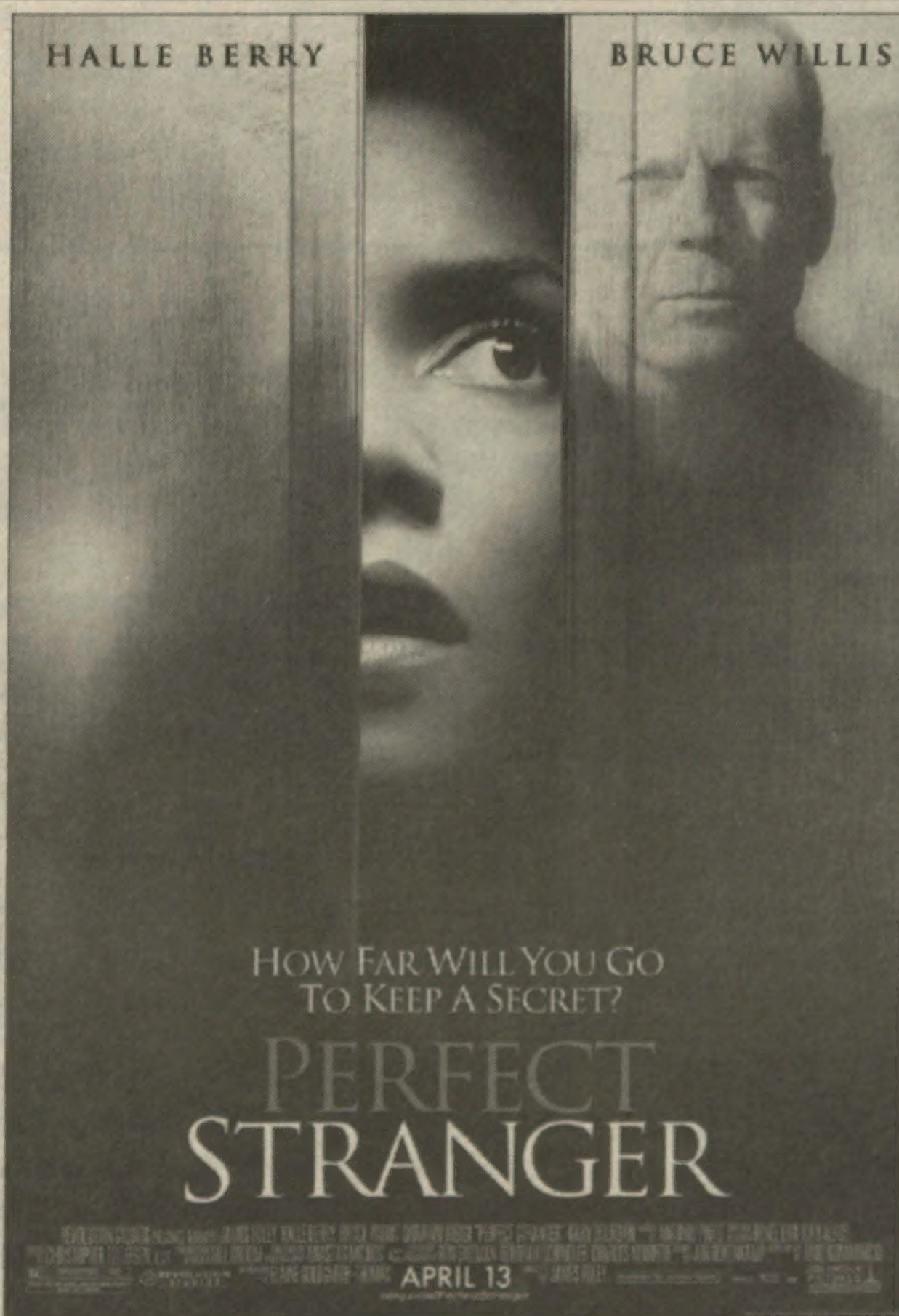
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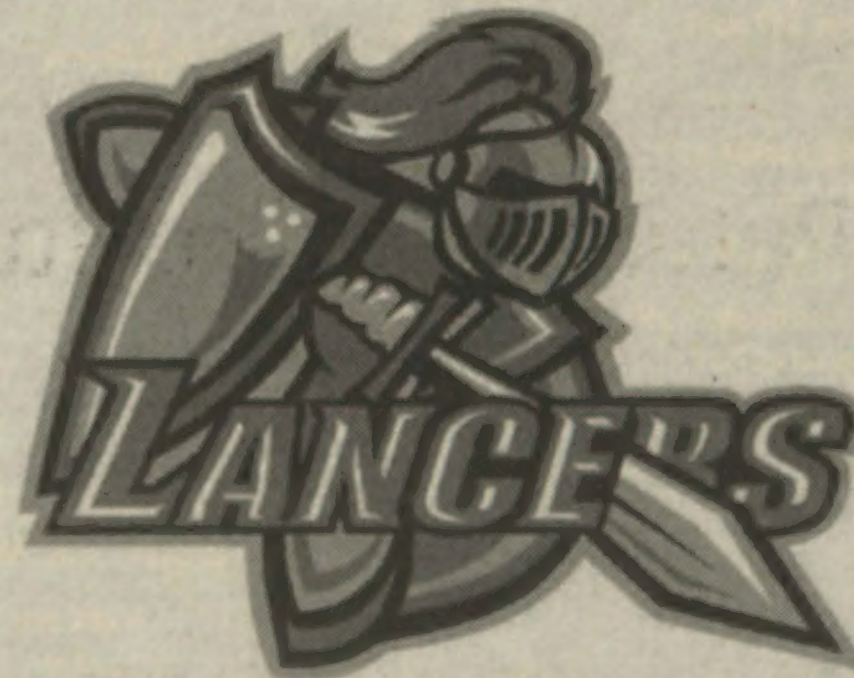
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In landscape of ideas, graffiti tells world what many may not want to hear



photo by Alan Berner/Seattle Times/MCT

The writing is on the wall for this "writer" as he spells out A-M-E-R in his own script on a SoDo Warehouse in Seattle, Washington.

RICHARD SEVEN
THE SEATTLE TIMES
(MCT)

SEATTLE - Tom Dobrowolsky, a University of Washington graduate student rapt by how we communicate in, and with, public space, stops to regard a metal door in Seattle's Bohemian-hippie Fremont neighborhood. Set back in a foot-deep alcove, it has become a temporary bulletin board, a chat room of sorts, of spray-painted scribbles we call graffiti tags.

These marks can't be confused with graffiti art. They are labels, brands, and unreadable to those outside the subculture. It's a private conversation in public, like that cellphone yakker on the

bus.

Who left marks on the door? Which came first? Do they reply directly to one another? Are they part of the same group? How long have they been there, and why are they still?

"The city is a library," says Dobrowolsky, who co-directs the UW's Urban Archives project, which catalogs examples of ephemeral street communication. "Buildings are like books. We annotate with addresses and signs. Graffiti, well, that's like the scribbling you maybe shouldn't put in the margins, but do."

Like it or not, the marginalia we call graffiti is a fact of city life, and academics like Dobrowolsky and his partners believe it's worth documenting for research.

It is human nature to want to be noticed somehow, somewhere. We have something to say sometimes. Why else would bumper stickers exist? Or "vote-for-so-and-so" yard signs? Ever notice those stickers on the backs of street signs? The odd stencils? It all washes on the sea of official street texts pointing you here, warning you not to park there or nudging you toward what to buy.

Unofficial street signs are part of the public conversation, and graffiti represents a particularly heated debate. Seattle city government, other agencies and private property owners reply to it with millions of dollars worth of erasing through paint, power-washing and simple human scrubbing. Private property owners get fined if they don't buff the damage done to them.

Mayor Greg Nickels especially hates it. He subscribes to the "broken windows" theory, which essentially says a graffiti tag left unbuffed invites more graffiti, and a lot of graffiti eventually tells the public the affected area is unsafe.

Despite the constant buffing and aggressive prosecution, graffiti remains ubiquitous. It is vandalism - the act meaning as much as, if not more than, the writing on the wall. The majority resembles the scribbling of a 2-year-old wielding a crayon, but some show stunning creativity and talent.

Mostly teens and 20-something men, writers give all sorts of reasons. Some say it's about the art, or self-expression, or protest against a corporate ownership, or society's imbalance, or all of the above. They say government-gray blank walls are oppressive and public advertising is manipulative.

Ultimately, they say, tagging means I exist, I'm here, and I've got a place in the public forum. I, too, can advertise.

This vandalism matters because how a place is structured determines how we relate to and behave in it, sociologists say. Graffiti is one of those unsanctioned layers that adds context. How we react to it varies widely. Some of us fixate on it, burning up the city's anti-graffiti hotline several times a week, if not daily. Others find it too mundane to even notice.

Dobrowolsky says studying and noting it does not mean you like it. Just that it's happening in the public square. Once you start looking, however, it seems to be everywhere.

We've been writing on walls since cave-dwelling days, and literal texts from "Eat the Rich" to "Kilroy was Here" have shown up on walls ever since. Modern American graffiti began on the streets and in the subways of New York and Philadelphia in the late 1960s. Almost immediately, it became a subject of extreme polarization and serious sociological study.

The subculture speaks of "bombs" and "bites" and "burns" - to write, to copy, to excel. It purports to possess a code of rules and a hierarchy of sorts that separates "toys" (know-nothings, punks, beginners) from "kings" (talented artists). It has its own way of hurling insults and dismissing.

Hollywood and Madison Avenue have co-opted graffiti designs for campaigns that communicate both hip and slightly dangerous to sell just about everything from movie tickets to expensive sneakers. In the real world, most street graffiti consists of tags scribbled on poles, walls, trash cans, doors and railings. Even a tree gets hit once in a while.

There is very little gang graffiti in Seattle, authorities say, but it all involves, to a degree, marking territory. Taggers use property, both public and private, as a medium. It's part political statement, but ultimately they want to be respected by peers and noticed by the public.

A 30-year-old Seattle visual artist, who sprayed elaborate pieces in California until he was 25, says he began as a teenager as a way to literally and figuratively leave his mark. He could communicate and find acceptance from others who thought like he did.

"The general public lacks the recognition that there is a certain segment of society for whom there is no real means of self-expression," he says. "Protest was certainly a part of it. I was a child then, and I needed approval. But after a while (facing constant governmental erasing and the threat

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Sports

Jason Glenn | Sports Editor

Page 7

sports@gateway.unomaha.edu | April 3, 2007

Golf records second tournament win in rain-shortened invitational



Sara Wolfe

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

After opening their season with a tune-up tournament in Florida that included a few Division I teams and half of the Division

II top-10, the UNO golf team was apparently fired up to take on some schools from their own latitude.

The Mavericks won tournaments on consecutive weekends, charging to a 28-stroke victory in the Missouri Western Invitational March 25-26 in St. Joseph, Mo., and carding the low first round in the rain-shortened Augustana Spring Invitational in Sioux Falls, S.D., Friday.

In both of the tournaments, junior Sara Wolfe was the Mavs' low scorer, notching a 164 two-day total in St. Joe to place second overall, and shooting a 75 at the PrairieGreen Golf Course in Sioux Falls to tie for second.



Lynn Mulligan

Coach Tim Nelson said he was impressed with the way Wolfe regained her composure after struggling with back-to-back double bogeys to start the Missouri Western meet.

"She just played strong," he said. "She had a couple bad holes, but she didn't let it get to her."

As a team UNO was consistent and dominant on the St. Joe course, placing all seven golfers in the top 10 individually. Juniors Lynn Mulligan and Kate O'Dea finished right behind Wolfe with 166 and 167, respectively, to

help the Mavericks capture three of the top five spots.

While Nelson expected his team to carry the Missouri Western tournament, the fourth-year coach said the Augustana meet would prove a better indicator of how the Mavs matched up against some of the toughest competition in the region.

It wasn't the rout of the previous weekend, but with four golfers in the 70s, the Mavericks saw their first-day team total of 308 hold up against the University of Upper Iowa's 311 when the Saturday round was canceled.



Lindsay Newton

Behind Wolfe were juniors Lindsay Newton and O'Dea, who each shot a 77 to end up in a tie for ninth place.

Considering how early it is in the season, Nelson said he has been pleased overall with the consistency and resolve of his athletes.

"Everybody could have dropped a couple of shots here and there, but we haven't played that much," he said. "We really had that time in Florida and then we had just one week of practice. We're kind of building."

But all the same, he said, it's a pretty good feeling to be building off of two straight wins.

"It's always nice to be the leader of the pack."

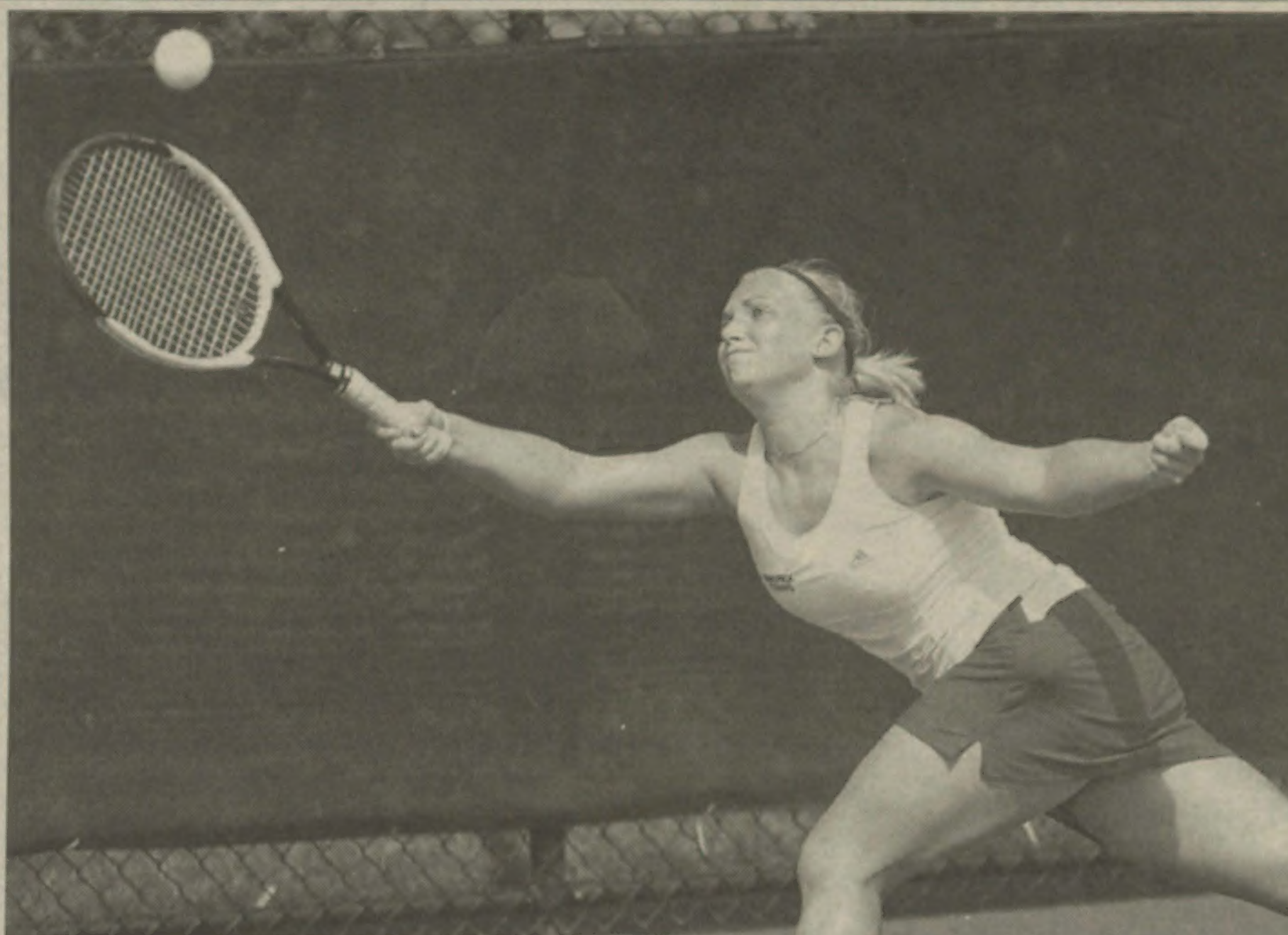


photo by Patrick Doty

Kylie Roe lunges for the ball Wednesday during her 6-4, 7-5 win over Lauren Harris. The victory helped the her team gain momentum, but the rally eventually proved to be in vain.

Mavs drops third straight match

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

After jumping out to an 8-1 record, the UNO tennis team has found no love on the court in the last couple of weeks.

With a 6-3 loss to Washburn University at the Koch Family Tennis Center Wednesday, the Mavericks fell for the third time in as many

matches.

The Mavs looked like they were in deep trouble early on, dropping their first four singles matches to put Washburn one win away from a lock.

Of particular concern was how UNO's top two players fared in their matches.

Sophomore No. 1 Rachel Faulk,

See **TENNIS**: Page 10

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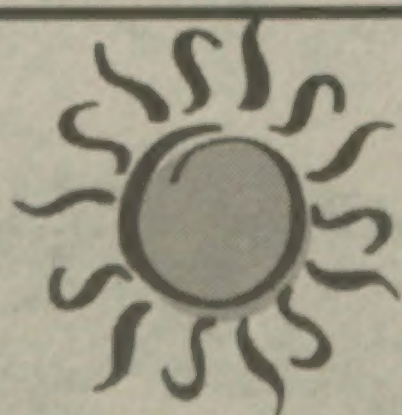
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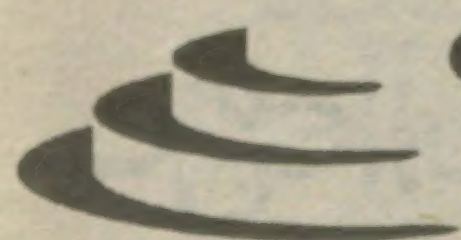
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Mavs positive about full scrimmage

PATRICK DOTY
ASST. PHOTO/LINE EDITOR

The clouds were looming over Caniglia Field Saturday afternoon, but the rain held off long enough to give the Maverick football team a dry finish to the first full spring scrimmage of the year.

In 69 plays, the Maverick offense generated 385 yards during the 75-minute scrimmage. Senior Zach Miller, who started at quarterback last season, complete 5 of 7 passes for 51 yards and rushed for 23.

But the real stars of Saturday's scrimmage were the second- and third-stringers that got more playing-time because of upperclassmen recovering from injuries, Coach Pat Behrns said.

"We've got a lot of young players getting a lot of good reps right now," he said.

Sophomore quarterback Greg Wunderlich, freshman quarterback Brian Gralheer and tight-end Mike Higgins had especially impressive performances.

Higgins, a redshirt freshman, caught the first touchdown of the scrimmage

on a 91-yard pass from Wunderlich. Higgins found the end zone again on an over-the-shoulder grab from Gralheer.

Wunderlich completed four passes for 123 yards, while Gralheer, also a redshirt freshman, completed seven for 102 yards.

The Mavs' defense was also generating some strong plays, including a blocked field goal by freshman linebacker Travis Jacobi.

Behrns said he likes the way the team performed during Saturday's scrimmage, but they still have work to do.

"In all honesty, I'm very happy with the progress we're making," Behrns said. "That's unusual; you don't hear coaches say that much this time of year."

Miller attributed the progress to his teammates playing more physically.

"Overall, I think we took a couple steps forward compared to last week," Miller said. "Whenever pads are popping, everything tends to go a little bit better."

Sports Editor Jason Glenn contributed to this report.

Spring football:



all photos by Patrick Doty

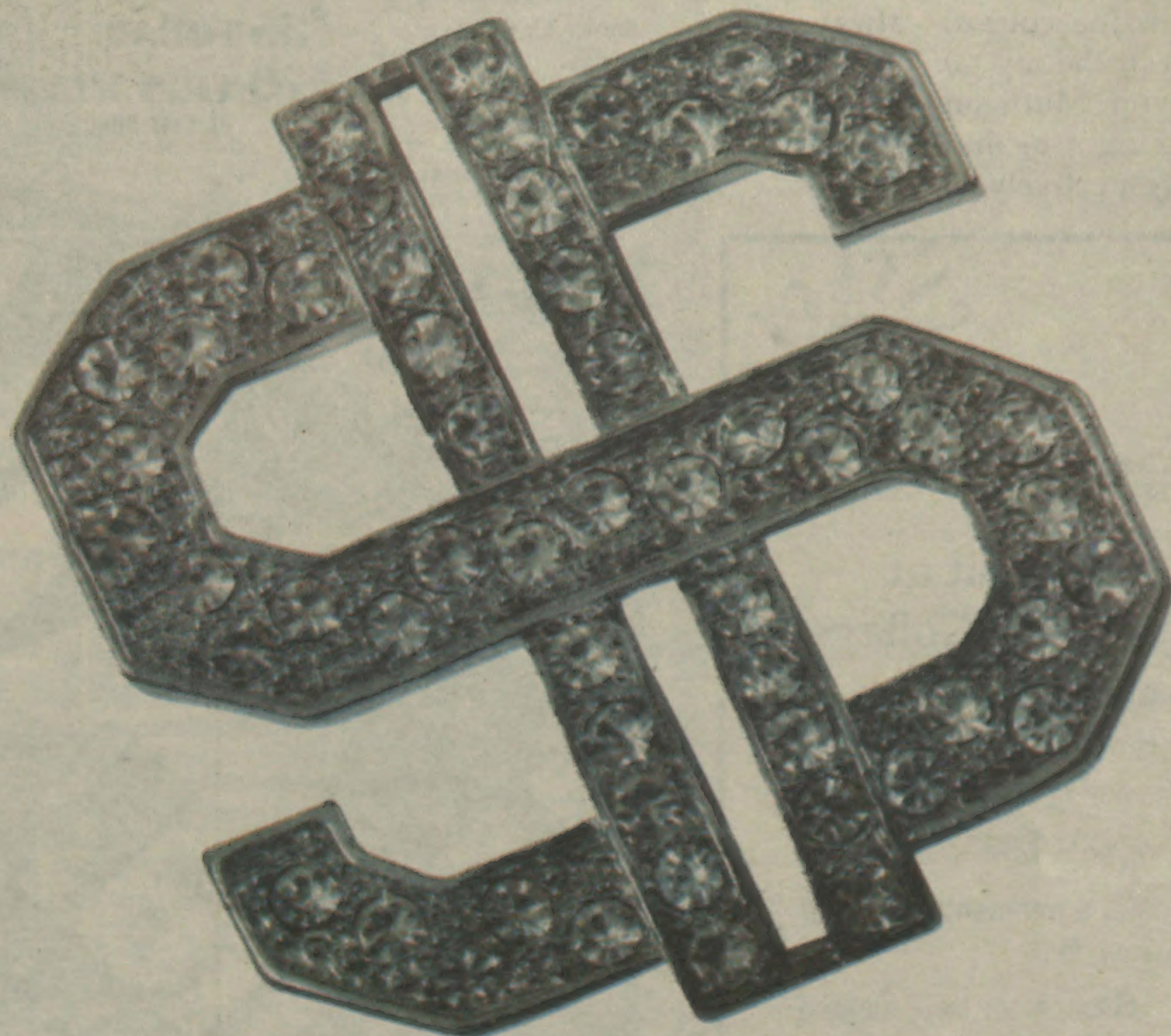
Coach Pat Behrns talks to his assembled players after the Mavericks' full contact scrimmage of the spring season Saturday at Caniglia Field. Behrns will be entering his 15th year as head UNO football coach.

Freshman receiver Dan Reinecke hits the open field after hauling in a pass. Reinecke picked up 53 yards on the reception, the second-highest total of the day.



Sophomore tailback Robert Wesley gets dragged down after a short gain. Wesley ran for 25 yards on 12 carries and will be competing for the spot vacated by 1,000-yard rusher Kyle Kasperbauer.

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Rain stays away while Mavericks get to play



Senior quarterback Zach Miller breaks through the defensive line before being wrestled to the ground by safety Trent Lyons. Miller picked up 23 yards rushing on five attempts as well as connecting on five of seven passes for 51 yards and one touchdown.



Sophomore quarterback Greg Wunderlich signals prior to taking the snap during the Mavs' spring scrimmage. Wunderlich led all passers with 123 yards on four completions, including a 91-yard touchdown to Mike Higgins.



Freshman David Armstrong attempts to muscle his way through the defensive line. Armstrong was the leading rusher of the scrimmage, running for 32 yards on 14 touches.

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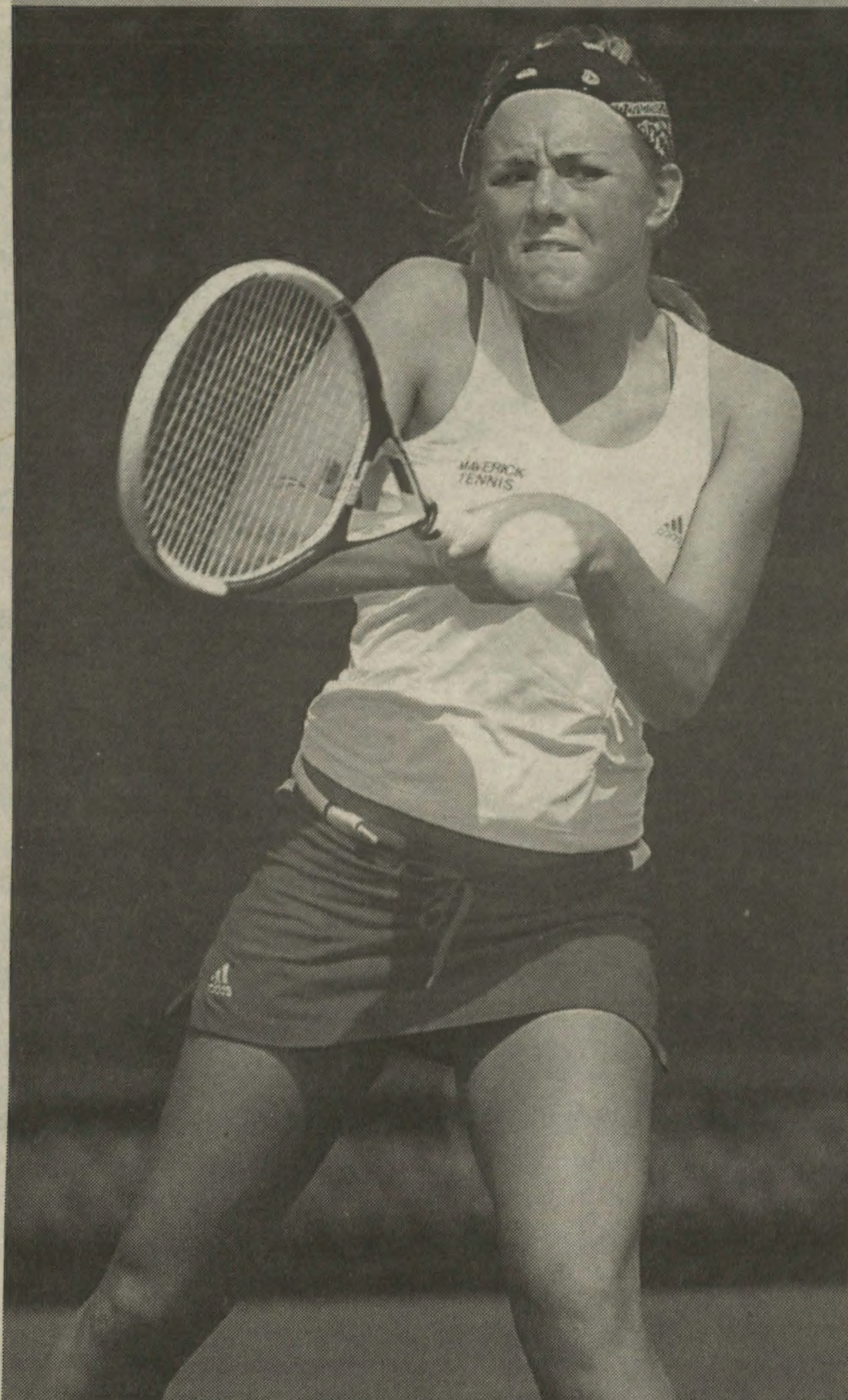
From **TENNIS:** Page 7

photo by Patrick Doty

Amy Pierson launches a return in her singles match against Washburn's Amber Raindl. Despite her effort, Pierson lost the match 6-1, 6-3.

who had lost only one match on the season, fell 6-0, 6-1 to Diana Goldsmith in less than an hour, and despite a rally in the second set, senior No. 2 Maggie Russell lost to Julie Huyberegts 6-1, 6-4.

Coach Bill Nichols, who has led the UNO program since it was started seven years ago, said he was a little shocked at the outcome of the first two matches.

"Those are where I felt like we had our best chances to win and we got whipped," he said. "The beginning was not pretty."

But after UNO's No. 5 player, junior Kylie Roe, got the team on the board with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Lauren Harris, the momentum seemed to take a turn.

Junior Katie Spahn roared back

from a frame down to top the Lady Blues' Audrie Miller 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 in the Mavericks' first full three-setter of the year.

Spahn, who has been picking up some of the slack as freshman teammate Kelsey Haas recovers from a wrist injury, also recorded one of the Mavericks' two wins against Drake.

As play shifted to doubles, the Mavs still had a chance to grind out a win if they could sweep all three matches.

With their individual defeats behind them, Russell and Faulk kept each other loose and held off Goldsmith and Huyberegts 8-6 in the No. 1 match to bring UNO one step closer to a comeback.

Team captain Russell said the win helped the pair feel a little bit better about the day.

"Rachel and I both felt, after our singles matches, it was nice to redeem ourselves," she

said.

Unfortunately for the Mavericks, that's where the rally ended.

UNO dropped the remaining two doubles matches and had to walk away on the losing end for the third-straight time.

Despite the downturn in the Mavs' season, Nichols said a few bumps and bruises along the way might make his team just a little bit tougher when it really counts.

"We've got a month before regional championship play and it really gave us a bit of a kick in the [butt]. I think Washburn just worked a bit harder than us today," he said. "I think they opened our eyes. We've got to start working harder to get it done in regional play because that's really what it's all about."



Emcee J.J. Davis (left) and UNO hockey coach Mike Kemp (right) share a laugh with sophomore forward Tomas Klempa at the Maverick Hockey Awards Ceremony Sunday. Klempa won the Mike Rehmeier Biggest Heart Award.

photo by Michelle Bishop

Hockey players honored at ceremony

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO hockey team held its annual awards ceremony Sunday afternoon at the Scouler building in downtown Omaha and the biggest superstar in the history of the program wasn't even there to collect his fourth straight MVP award.

That's because All-American forward Scott Parse was too busy winning games in the pros.

After signing a contract with the AHL's Grand Rapids Griffins last week, Parse has already picked up three points in his first three games, including the game-tying goal and an assist on the game winner in the Griffins' Saturday night win.

Bill Parse accepted his son's award and said Scott regretted he couldn't be with his teammates on their special day.

He also gave a candid and understated glimpse of Scott Parse's overachieving ways through his college career.

"When Scott came here, I said, 'you need to listen to the coaches, work hard and do everything you can to get to the second line. Because if you get to the second line, you get to play every game,'" Bill Parse said. "That was my expectation and Scott seemed to exceed that a bit."

Senior defenseman Mike Eickman also ran his award streak into multiple years.

For the third year in a row the psychology major who plans on going to dental school was given the Mavericks' Student Athlete Award.

Other Mavs honored at the ceremony were senior Brent Kisio, for most improved player and freshman goaltender Jeremie Dupont, for newcomer of the year. Sophomore forward Dan Charleston was given the 7th Man award and fellow sophomore forward Tomas Klempa earned the Mike Rehmeier Biggest Heart award.

The afternoon ended with the traditional salute to the outgoing senior athletes and their farewell addresses.

Though Parse may have been the most prominent senior absent due to a growing hockey career, he wasn't the only one.

Kisio and defenseman Dan Knapp were unable to attend due to opportunities in playing and coaching that came up since the end of the Mavericks' season, leaving Eickman and forward Alex Nikiforuk to speak on their behalf.

As soon as they were done, Coach Mike Kemp commended his senior leaders on the program's progress under their watch.

"They came in as true believers and they went through some of the tough times," Kemp said. "They're the ones who had the vision, helped lead us through that and climb out of that and experience and enjoy what we've experienced the last three years."

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a&l@gateway.unomaha.edu | April 3, 2007

Winter Music Conference provides funky break . . . after spring break

On The Beat



Brent Crampton

As the tradition of last year's belligerent introspection on the Miami spring break a-flairs trip I had, I thought I'd take some time to recap what occurred this year in Miami at the Winter Music Conference.

Now, I know this is a band town, and as expected, *The Reader* did a full feature on the South By Southwest conference in Texas. Well, in contrast to this, the Winter

Music Conference is the largest annual convergence of record label owners, producers, artists and DJs within the electronic music industry. *The Reader* mentioned nothing of the WMC in their paper, so I'll fill you in on some of the happenings . . .

Opting to extend my spring break, since the conference was a week after UNO's designated week, I found myself in Miami, with the roar of the beach beckoning from the balcony of my condo. But I was not found to be frolicking on the beach or sipping cocktails in a nightclub.

No, rather I was hunched over, eyes fixated on my laptop situated on the low-lighted kitchen table as I conjured a seven-page fill-in of a midterm exam essay about the differences between high and low culture. But I was low and all I wanted to do was get high to the music.

My study session was temporarily halted as I headed to a gig at which I was slated to perform. This was the Scion and ineem.com Break Thru Emerging Artist Tour showcase of DJs around the country, and after winning this pseudo DJ popularity contest, I was sent to Miami to represent Omaha. Evidently, the only thing I broke through to was five people in the hotel lobby-turned-night-club as I showed up for my gig at 3 a.m. But eager to celebrate my first Miami drink, I went to the bartender, who had remnants of mojitos plastered to her white shirt with her thong crudely sticking up above her waistline and low-rise jeans. At the time I didn't know that with an acquired wrist band I could get free drinks, so I obliviously ordered a Red Bull and vodka. Wondering if her sagging pants were going to pop out at any moment via a hip-hop video booty-wagging stint, I watched her interpret my drink order with a modest plastic cup, ice, a bit of charcoal-filtered, headache-inducing Skol vodka, topped off with Red Bull. The price for such a masterpiece? Well, all I could think of was the Alaskan king crab I could have had as I passed the requested \$16.50 to her.

I then proceeded back to my condo via a \$13 cab ride, only to fall asleep half way through a typed sentence, trying to finish my midterm paper. As the next night rolled around, my first stop would be a stop at the Got Soul Therapy party at Dek 23 to see Osunlade, a Yoruban priest with a wooden stick through his nose, perform his techy, afro-latin selections to a lower-chakra shaking crowd. Just then I caught eye of a soul queen. The type with long legs, brown skin, curly hair and a slight shake that reminds you of a beautiful woman you'd see on the cover of a Motown record. She was an Afro soul queen. But not wanting to be distracted from my music-networking quest, I averted my eyes and headed to my next

destination that would nearly change my life . . . The Shelter part.

As 2:30 a.m. rolled around, I was making my way into a baby-powder-pouring, black, white and latino dancing frenzy of more than 400 people screaming and flailing their arms to the soulful and tribal sounds of a big, black and shirtless figure known as Timmy Regisford. The energy was amazing. The jazz-hat-wearing, dancing brother stepped up and twirled off bar seating as I stood in line for a drink. Frohawked Euro's jumped up and down in zeal at a chance to see their favorite NYC DJ. And I had to play like a Slim Jim on the dance floor



photo by Brent Crampton

See **ON THE BEAT:** Page 13

The Got Soul Therapy party featured Osunlade, a Yoruban priest who performed afro-latin selections to a hip and soulful crowd.

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Alternative Press' "Bands You Need to Know" Tour featuring Circa Survive and *Cute Is What We Aim For*
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Witch's Hat, Bazooka Shootout, Or Does it Explode
O'Leavers Pub
8 p.m.

Neko Case with Jon Rauhouse
The Rococo Theatre, Lincoln
8 p.m. - \$18, 18+

Wednesday, April 4
Elvis Perkins in Dearland with Let's Go Sailing
The Waiting Room
9 p.m. - \$8

Thursday, April 5
Monotonix with Rent Money Big
The Waiting Room
9 p.m. - \$7, 18+

The Devil Wears Prada with The Calico System and A
Day to Remember
Sokol Underground
8 p.m. - \$8 ADV / \$10 DOS

Friday, April 6
Anchondo with Bad Fathers, The Fonzarellies and Polydypsia
Sokol Underground
8 p.m. - \$8

Two Ton Boa with 31 Knots
O'Leavers
9 p.m. - \$5, 21+

Saturday, April 7
Scott Severin & The Milton Burlesque with Soul Plexus and Thunder Power!!!
The Waiting Room
9 p.m. - \$7, 18+

Maria Taylor with McCarthy Trenching and Eerie Choir
Sokol Underground
9 p.m. - \$8

Tuesday, April 10
Man Man with Icy Demons
The Waiting Room
9 p.m. - \$10

Saosin
Sokol Underground
8 p.m. - \$12

Thursday, April 12
Coyote Bones
The Waiting Room
9 p.m. - \$7, 18+

Lola Ray with The Futurists and Go! Motion

Sokol Underground
8 p.m. - \$7

She Swings, She Sways, Black Squirrels, The Zach Heath Band
O'Leavers Pub
8 p.m.

Friday, April 13
Bobby Danj + DJ CMB, Capaciti, Soul or System and Animosity
O'Leavers Pub
8:00 p.m.

Antelope with The Stay Awake
The Waiting Room
9 p.m. - \$5



Anberlin will showcase material off the new album *Cities* on April 13 at Sokol.

David Bazan with Will Johnson
The Saddle Creek Bar
9 p.m. - \$10, 21+

Tomato a Day, Whatever Happened to the Dinosaurs?
O'Leavers Pub
8 p.m.

Sunday, April 15th
Jennifer O'Connor
The Waiting Room
9 p.m. - \$8

Tuesday, April 17
Minmae
The Waiting Room
9 p.m. - \$7, 18+



UK alternative rockers Placebo stop by the Sokol Auditorium April 17.

The Annual 420 show tradition with RA The Rugged Man with Noizewave, Buck Bowen, Slang 5, and Articulate
Sokol Underground
9 p.m. - \$10

Paria, School of Arms
O'Leavers Pub
8 p.m.

Saturday, April 21

Anberlin with Daphne Loves Derby and Jonezetta
Sokol Underground
8 p.m. - \$13

Saturday, April 14
Sarah Benck & The Robbers with Zack Hexum and Matt Whipkey
The Waiting Room
9 p.m. - \$7

Brother Ali with Psalm One, BK One, and Trama
Sokol Underground
9 p.m. - \$10

Noah's Ark was a Spaceship, Be-Non
O'Leavers Pub
8 p.m.

Elf Power
The Waiting Room
9 p.m. - \$8

Sunday, April 22
Say Anything with Saves the Day and The Dear Hunter
Sokol Auditorium
7 p.m. - \$16 ADV / \$18 DOS

Aqueduct with What Made Milwaukee Famous
Sokol Underground
9 p.m. - \$7

Monday, April 23
Andrew Bird with Apostle of Hustle
Sokol Underground
9 p.m. - \$15

Wednesday, April 25
Blueprint with Buck Bowen and Envelope
The Waiting Room
9 p.m. - \$8

Super Virgin, Santiago
O'Leavers Pub
8 p.m.



Bright Eyes will grace the stage of the Holland Performing Arts Center for the first time on April 26.

Thursday, April 26
Bright Eyes with Oakley Hall and McCarthy Trenching
The Holland Performing Arts Center
8 p.m. - \$30

Friday, April 27
Box Elders, Buffalo Killers, Brimstone Howl, Blind Shake
O'Leavers Pub
8 p.m.

Saturday, April 28
Thunder Power!!!, Casados, Tea Ceremony, Traindodge
O'Leavers Pub
8 p.m.

Monday, April 30
Electric Six with Test Your Reflex and Night Kills The Day
The Waiting Room
9 p.m. - \$13



The six-piece rock group Electric Six will bring an energetic and unique show to the Waiting Room on April 30.

KVNO surpasses UNO station's goals with successful fundraiser

CHARLEY REED
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

You've heard it on your radio at least once. In fact, it might even be on one of your presets. Located at 90.7 on the FM dial, KVNO, Omaha's only classical music station, just finished its spring 2007 fund drive on March 21. It took one week and a record number of nearly 200 new members to raise the station's goal of \$80,000, one of the most successful fund drives in over 35 years of operation.

"We are very pleased with the results of the recent campaign," said KVNO General Manager Debbi Aliano. "It's so gratifying to receive positive community feedback about KVNO."

Because KVNO is non-profit organization, much like PBS or NPR, more than half of their funding has to come from memberships and fundraising. In the event the station couldn't raise enough money, it would have likely been forced to shut down.

"Classical music as a radio format is fading away in many communities across the country," Aliano wrote. "So it is especially noteworthy that KVNO enjoys such strong community support."

But Molly Niklin, KVNO's associate development manager, said that many people don't even think about that aspect of the station. "Maybe some people take

[KVNO] for granted because it's been in Omaha for 35 years," she said.

Usually a fundraiser will get most of its money on the last day and, not surprisingly, on the last day of the drive, KVNO raised more than \$23,000, an all-time high. But Niklin said what was a surprise was that almost every day of the week-long drive was more active than usual. "Sometimes you'll have days that are a little bit low and discouraging, but that never really happened," she explained.

The \$80,000 was donated by only 488 of KVNO's 3,000 members, a small percentage of the station's typical audience of close to 40,000. Program Director Mike Hagstrom said that raising money actually comes pretty easily as long as you remind the listeners of their impact.

"Ultimately, that message is asking listeners to think about the value that KVNO provides," he said. "And we alternate that message with the cold hard facts that our listeners, in large part, make this valuable service possible to the entire community."

KVNO often helps many UNO students study as well as employs many students, giving them practical work experience. And usually, those UNO students are able to give back by answering phones for the fundraiser. Niklin said because of the timing, many students were busy, but KVNO still got help elsewhere.

"It wouldn't really be feasible for the staff to handle all the phone calls that come in at once, so it's important to have people there to answer the phones," Niklin said. "[But] anybody from the UNO community would be very welcome to join us next time."

And for those looking toward the future, KVNO's next fund drive is planned for October, but KVNO is always accepting new members and looking for volunteers to help raise money.



photo by Munira Amini

KVNO, UNO's classical radio station, met its fundraising goal of \$80,000 with ease.



photo by Michelle Bishop

McFoster's Natural Kind Café is Omaha's only authentic vegetarian and organic restaurant. The veggie-burger, wheat grass shot and stawberry mint julip are local favorites.

Options in full bloom for veggie lovers at local Omaha restaurants

COMMENTARY BY
SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

With vegetarianism and veganism becoming more and more common in America, sometimes it can seem difficult to accommodate your veggie friend or pick the perfect restaurant to woo your vegan love interest.

I know that, as a vegetarian myself, one thing people always ask is, "Well, what do you eat?" Just because I don't chow down on meat dishes, some people initially assume all I eat are Brussels sprouts, tofu, soy milk and maybe the occasional veggie burger. (Not true: I dislike Brussels sprouts.)

Fortunately, vegetarian dining need not be constrained or bland, even in a beef-and-potatoes area like Omaha. There are a lot of places in Omaha where someone who doesn't care for animal products can find a great meal. There are even some places where you can choose among several good dishes.

So let's pretend you're going to take that special vegetarian friend of yours out on the town and travel down Dodge Street in search of some fine eats.

Old Market

The Old Market offers ambiance, cafés, art galleries and other attractions that are hard to pass up as spring blooms, so let's start there.

The first question you need to ask is whether your special friend is a lacto-ovo vegetarian or a vegan. A lacto-ovo vegetarian still eats dairy and egg products and often consumes honey and other animal products, too. A vegan, on the other hand, has sworn off any animal products and might be a little trickier to accommodate.

Either way, my recommendation in the Old Market is definitely Ahmad's Persian Cuisine, located at 1006 Howard St. or just east of the Passageway entrance near the horses, for those who know the area on foot.

Ahmad's offers a unique environment with blue walls, nontraditional music and a dim-lit, relaxing feel in the evening. My favorite dish is a spicy peas and potatoes stew that you eat over rice, with slices of banana as a garnish. The mixed vegetable variety is also worth checking out.

For more traditional fare, there are the Old Market staples of the Old Spaghetti Works, offering Italian dining, and Upstream Brewery Company, which offers a veggie burger, grilled veggies and gnocchi as well as a couple other veg-friendly dishes.

Saddle Creek

Driving west from the Old Market

at 302 S. 38th St. is McFoster's Natural Kind Café. Omaha's only real vegetarian restaurant also offers a handful of chicken and seafood dishes for the veggie impaired. A caveat for the vegans out there, though: Some of McFoster's products come with soy cheese, which contain casein (a milk protein); even at a vegetarian restaurant, you still sometimes have to ask questions.

Nevertheless, McFoster's offers a range of vegetarian and vegan dishes. I would recommend the Portabella mushroom dinner, the blue corn nachos or the charbroiled veggie burger. For Sunday brunch McFoster's also offers breakfast faire. Their regular menu is available for your perusal at mcfosters.com.

Also in the Saddle Creek area is Sgt. Pepper's Café Italian, 1501 N. Saddle Creek Rd., which offers a range of vegetarian-friendly Italian dishes, including pizza, stuffed peppers and lasagna (which I would not recommend). My favorite dish is their baked tortellini, but unfortunately they leave room for desire if you're after vegan options.

Crossroads & Westroads

Continuing along Dodge past UNO, you first pass the Crossroads Mall area. Noodles & Company, located at 203 S. 72nd St., offers a handful of vegetarian dishes. Their Japanese Pan Noodles are a delicious vegan-friendly dish, and their Pesto Cavatappi is great for the lacto-ovo crowd. I would also recommend getting tofu added to either dish.

Down the road a bit from Noodles & Company is their longer-wait-time chain rival, the Olive Garden, 7505 Dodge St., which offers a well-known line of Italian dishes. Their Portobello-filled ravioli and minestrone soup are worth praise, as is their bruschetta and smoked mozzarella fonduta appetizers. While again lacking in many vegan options, the Olive Garden can be a great choice for taking out a lacto-ovo friend.

After the Olive Garden, a short drive along Dodge towards I-680 brings us to Westroads and P.F. Chang's China Bistro, another veg-friendly chain restaurant. However, just because their menu features nearly a dozen vegetarian plates doesn't mean it takes skill to navigate. I would advise steering clear of the Ma Po Tofu, which tastes eerily like a meat dish and might offend the palate of a long-time vegetarian. Stick with the Buddha's feast or more traditional lo mein options. Regardless of your entrée selection, definitely treat yourself to an order of their harvest spring rolls – easily the best spring rolls I can

See **VEGETARIAN**: Page 15

From **ON THE BEAT**: Page 11

to weave my way to the front. And as I was dancing, shaking and taking in the energy, someone came up behind me to tuck in the tag sticking out of my shirt. I turn to pleasantly see the aforementioned Afro soul queen. So we danced, we yelled over the music and exchanged flirty glances. She even invited me to come visit in Chicago. It was great.

Just then, Regisford played "Days Like This" by Shaun Escoffery. No one really knows this song in Omaha, but it's an underground soulful house classic. And whenever I play it in Omaha, my friends and I circle up, dancing and sing the lyrics, "I love days like this, I love days like this . . . Here comes the sun." Only it's a much different experience when you hear more than 400 people singing the song in unison as the DJ turns down the volume on the chorus line. Amazing. With the night complete, I then stumbled out of the venue at 5 a.m. and

headed to bed, via a \$13.50 cab ride.

The next day: headache! I got drunk in Miami the night before: mistake No. 1. Normally getting drunk in and of itself is not a mistake in my book, but when you're in Miami with \$9 bottles of Corona it's a mistake. Mistake No. 2? I didn't get my Afro soul queen's phone number.

And while this was only the first two days in Miami, you can imagine how the remainder of my five-day trip transpired . . .

DJ sets to the sunrise, walking in the ghetto searching for a taxicab, standing in line to get into a club for an hour (to which I was on the guest list for), getting interviewed by the *Miami Herald* and private pool parties with massage tables. Each day turned to night, each party to delight.

I'll end my Miami recap here. You can check out the rest of the craziness via the pictures I took by going to the gallery section at Omahanightlife.com.

From **ACCIDENT**: Page 3

Linda estimated the car was driving about 20 mph.

"They were not going fast, but they were going fast enough," she said.

Mary and her friends filed a report with the Omaha Police Department that included the license plate of the vehicle. A copy of the police accident

report was unavailable Sunday afternoon.

"It was really scary, and I think [Mary] is a champ for getting up and walking away from it," Patricia said.

Editor's Note: The names of the victim and her friends were changed at the victim's request to protect her identity.

So much for fiscal responsibility Tylenol PM, NoDoz combination creates classic 'How Typical' mindset

As Far As I'm Concerned



Matthew Lytle

Well, we've just started our fourth month of this Democrat-controlled Congress, and apparently, just from some of the major antics in the last month,

the promises of bipartisanship, working together with the president and change seem to be just that: promises.

Let's start with the major spending bill that was supposed to appropriate \$99 billion in emergency funds to help keep our brave men and women kicking butt in Iraq and Afghanistan.

At least, it started off at \$99 billion...

Now, the two versions of this bill, one for each house, are now planning to appropriate \$120 billion for these bills, the additions made up of the infamous "pork" projects that are often representative pet projects.

Wait a minute, didn't these guys say that they'd be more fiscally responsible than the last Congress? And here they are, tacking on 33 percent of the original bill's worth in the very projects that they accused Republicans of abusing?

There's even speculation that some of the projects attached on the House's version were put there in exchange for some of the votes needed to pass this bill. Speculation though it may be, from where I come from, I think that's called a bribe.

Here's another interesting point about these spending bills: Each one has a date by which all U.S. troops are to be withdrawn from Iraq. In the Senate's version, the troops need to be out by March 2008, while in the House's version, it's September 2008. Hmm, in an election year, March is deep within primary season, and September is two months away from the big day. Something tells me that these dates aren't just coincidences.

But being more fiscally responsible isn't the only promise that the new Congressional leaders didn't follow through with. With their new ascension, Democrats promised that there'd be more cooperation with President Bush and Republicans.

At least, that's what we thought would

be happening...

Since I've already touched on the non-binding resolutions, let's skip ahead to the firing of eight U.S. attorneys, and the show trial in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Technically, the president can fire U.S. attorneys for any reason he wants, but Democrats believe that there was something far more sinister at hand and that White House players Karl Rove and Harriet Miers know the true plot behind these firings.

But, let's backpedal a bit. Of the 93 available U.S. attorneys, Bush fired eight. Former President Clinton fired 92 of them. Former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Carter fired roughly the same numbers when they had a shot. But the firings by Carter, Clinton and George H.W. Bush raised little stink. Somebody want to explain why these eight are so special, when previous administrations fired more U.S. Attorneys with much less flak?

Bush did offer to let Rove and Miers speak with committee members in private, off-the-record conversations, to which the Senate declined. I knew right from when the deal was proposed that if Democrats declined the president's deal, they were really more interested in running Bush out on a rail than actually finding out the truth.

University of Southern California law professor Susan Estrich, in a recent editorial, commented that the main reason for the proposed off-the-record comments is "something that Scooter Libby could explain to you without much difficulty."

"You can't be prosecuted for what you say when you're not under oath," said Estrich.

She's right, you know. With as strict as the grand jury was about Scooter Libby's memory in the Plamegate case, what would make the president think that these senators are going to be lenient regarding memory in this case?

In the end, in the past three months, Democrats have gone against the promises they made before power was handed to them. They promised cooperation and togetherness with the president, and yet they're ready to go after him and his aides over eight firings. They promised a more fiscally responsible Congress, and yet the pork is back with a vengeance.

If their actions in the past three months are indicative of what is to come, it's going to be a long 21 months. Which makes me wonder, "Are there such things as recall elections at the federal level?"

How Typical



Michael McManus

Among the porn-site offers and spam e-mail that I receive on a regular basis via my UNO e-mail account, I've received a few e-mails asking me why I don't write about my sexuality

anymore. Now that I think about it, I really haven't chronicled my lifestyle for a good two months now. With that said, I suppose today is as good as any day to restart the conversation. Join me now and let's get back in the "How Typical" mindset. Gay, gay, gay, gay, OK, I think I'm there.

I've actually enjoyed breaking away from the "typical" homosexual dialogue. I mean how typical is it for a gay guy to rant and rave about his sexuality? I've already touched on all the hot topics. Gay rights, adoption, the military and even entered the hostile waters and talked about being a gay Christian (which according to some of you, yet unknown to me, is not possible).

I'm more than just a gay guy, and I don't want to be known as "that gay guy." So to avoid taking on that title, I'm currently checking out the blonde female sitting at the computer adjacent to me.

Now that I have totally wandered away from the subject at hand, a funny, and not gay, thing happened to me at work the other day.

I spend my whole shift at work surrounded by lovely, sweet ladies: I work in a group home with developmentally disabled individuals. I spend my days smiling, laughing and often breaking up fights involving fists and shoes. Don't get me wrong; I absolutely love my job.

However, like many of my fellow UNO students, my job often leaves me drained. Last weekend was one such example of this drainage.

I work what people in the "business" call an extended weekend shift. The shift boils down to a 68-hour straight weekend. I work Friday from 3 p.m. until Monday at 9 a.m. Yes, I am, in fact, crazy.

Last Saturday at around 6 p.m., the ladies I was supporting asked to go roller-skating at the local Skate Land (correction: apparently it is now Skate Daze). I was down for some skating action. After dealing with a few difficult situations that morning involving McDonald's and the throwing of food, I knew I needed an extra kick to get me through the rest of the night. I found that kick in a two capsule pack of NoDoz, purchased at the local gas station. An hour later I had my "blades" on and was doing laps around the rink.

After our outing at Skate Daze, we went back to the house to prepare ourselves for bed. It was about 10 p.m. The ladies decided to call it a night, but I stayed up for a bit watching my television program of choice, "The L Word." Yes, the "L" stands for lesbian: Hot lesbians.

After a few episodes watching the ladies discuss things lesbians usually discuss, I decided that it was time to call it a night. I gently laid my head on the bed and tried to get some rest. Two hours later, I was still lying there, with a lack of closed eyes. Apparently the NoDoz didn't have enough time to wear off. I quickly got up, searched through my duffle bag and found something I was hoping would help me catch some shut-eye: Tylenol PM. I pulled out the bottle and swallowed one Tylenol PM. About 30 minutes later I felt it start to kick in. I lay down on the bed and closed my eyes.

Now I really don't know how to explain the feeling this single Tylenol PM gave me, all I can say is that the NoDoz was still kicking. It was as if there was a battle going on inside my body. One part asleep, one part awake. I'm not sure who won, but no sleep was had.

I would feel myself falling asleep, but would then open my eyes and find myself ready to participate in a relay race.

I was a mess.

I finally fell asleep at about 6 a.m. and was awakened at 7 a.m. by one of the ladies asking me to make pancakes. I didn't get any sleep, but I did get pancakes. How typical is that?

So, as usual, I hope my story inspired thought and change in your life. With that said, don't mix NoDoz and Tylenol PM unless you are planning on eating pancakes in the morning.

Legislative power defined by 'power of the purse'

Sinister Slant



Scott Stewart

One of the more important political concepts in a democracy, or even a quasi-representational republican (lower-case 'r') government, is the "power of the purse," the ability both to withhold funding as well as doll out extra dollars.

This is evident on all levels of government, and I think it's worth taking a few moments to look at

Anyway, the Dems are trying to use the power of the purse, rather than something like the War Powers Resolution, to bring an end to the U.S. involvement in Iraq. They have also used their ability to allocate resources to fund various "pork" projects, targeted initiatives for specific pet projects promoted by the representatives. This pork was even likely used to influence (a.k.a. bribe) less morally compelled members of our Congress into supporting the Dems' efforts.

Whether this is a good or a bad thing, and I happen to think it's some of both, it's the power of the purse in action.

At a more local level, the Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee recently approved increasing the state funding increase for the University of Nebraska to an average of 4 percent, according to a report by the *Lincoln Journal-Star*.

some examples.

Let's start on the federal level, where Congressional Democrats are trying to put a timetable on the Iraq - well, it's not really a war, since Congress is suppose to declare those. Let's go with the Iraq Authorization To Use Military Force.

WRITE TO US!

All readers are welcome to send their opinion or comments to the *Gateway*. Letters can be sent by mail, e-mail or fax. All letters should include the writer's name, address and phone number. Contact information will never be published. The *Gateway* reserves the right to reject letters or edit letters for clarity and space.

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The editor reserves the right to edit all letters for publication. Letters must be signed using the writer's first and last names. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number for verification purposes only. Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for publication.

See **STEWART**: Page 15

From **STEWART**: Page 14

The allocation to the university has been the center of a public debate over the committee and the challenges it has faced ever since Gov. Dave Heineman proposed several tax cuts and spending reductions, supposedly to ease the tax burden on the middle class.

The university has charged that the original appropriations by Heineman and the legislature fell far short of the required spending increases required by law for salary renegotiations, building upkeep and other necessities. The 4 percent currently suggested by the committee still falls short of what the university requested, but marks a significant success for higher education in Nebraska.

So the Unicameral seems to be doing a decent job with the power of the purse, at least for now.

Continuing to a municipal level, a friend of mine works for one of the public junior high schools in the area. She recently told me that her school was facing budget cuts that would likely remove Spanish, drama, debate and possibility journalism and other subjects from the curriculum.

Listening to her telling me what was going on, I thought to myself that this was yet another instance of the power of the purse, another decision to spend money on areas other than education rather than save what, in my assessment, are vital components to the development of many local 7th and 8th grade students.

Municipal school districts, then, might not be the best guardians of the purse. Of course, school principals and superintendents have to work

with the money given to them by taxpayers.

The purse's power is especially evident here at UNO. Student government recently decided to expand student fees to cover a program that will bring "free" copies of *USA Today*, the *New York Times* and the *Omaha World-Herald* to students at several locations across campus.

Last summer was met with controversy and scandal in the athletics department because of questions about the athletic budget and how money was spent. There was even talk of abuse of the purse, such as former Vice Chancellor for Administration Jim Buck's country club membership, travel expenses and satellite radio subscription. Buck resigned because of these discoveries.

Former Chancellor Nancy Belck and Athletics Director David Herbster soon followed him before the fall semester came to a close.

These examples all highlight different aspects of the management of public money and the power and corruption that can sometime be associated with it. Good things (like increased funding for the NU system) and bad things (like paying for a fundraiser golf tournament entry) can come from those who manage our nation's, state's, city's, district's and university's dollars.

Either way, though, it's important to keep track of who is holding the monetary reins, so that when the time comes to cast your next vote or participate in a public debate, you'll know whether or not you support a change of power.

From **VEGETARIAN**: Page 13



photo by Michelle Bishop

While its veggie burger and vegetable gnocchi are favorites among vegetarians, Upstream Brewing Company also offers a wide selection of beers to complement your meal.

remember having.

West Omaha

Traveling west of Westroads, you eventually come to Village Pointe: "Shop. Dine. Be entertained." While I'm not so fond of Village Pointe - I really only come up to the area once in a blue moon for the Apple Store or the movie theatre - this development appeals to a lot of people and is worth mentioning.

If money is no object, I would encourage you to try the Melting Pot, 17151 Davenport St. Their fondues are incredible, particularly the chocolate s'mores desert fondue. They offer a vegetarian entrée that's quite enjoyable, and their cheese fondues are incredible. The Melting Pot is definitely a good choice for a special occasion, but not an everyday restaurant.

For the more financially modest, West Omaha offer's Taco Del Mar, 14805 W. Maple Rd. Taco Del Mar is a burrito chain restaurant like Panchero's or Chipotle, and it has one of the few menu items in town with the word *vegan* clearly listed on it: The vegan mondo burrito. Personally, I think among the various Mexican grill chains in town, Taco Del Mar offers the best burrito, the best chips and easily best salsa.

Well that just about covers my recommendations for vegetarian/vegan-friendly restaurants in town, but it's by no means an exhaustive list. Many places offer at least one or two veggie dishes, including many steakhouses and fast food places (both, by the way, probably bad date ideas if you ask out a vegetarian).

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Acoustical Society of America. Holland Center Events. Concert 4/13 at 7pm. Tour 4/14 at 9am. Contact Marc for details. mchoiniere@mail.unomaha.edu

20th ANNUAL HEARTLAND ROUNDUP. APRIL 27-29, 2007. OMAHA, NE. www.heartlandroundup.org email: info@heartlandroundup.org

Regency Lodge 909 S. 107th Avenue (402) 397-8000 or (800) 617-8310. www.regencylodge.com Heartland RoundUp follows the AA Guidelines for Conferences as established by the GSO, and is sponsored by members of the Omaha gay and lesbian AA and Al-Anon Community. All AA & Al-Anon members are welcome.

From **GRAFFITI:** Page 6

of prosecution) it no longer was worth the risk."

Assistant Seattle City Attorney Edward McKenna has handled many graffiti cases, charging one suspect with 26 counts. Another defendant found tagging so addictive that despite losing a leg while painting a train, he kept doing it, after getting a prosthetic.

"From my experience, in Seattle, it appears to be middle-class males under 25," says McKenna. "They often have substance-abuse problems. They all have low self-esteem. They all seek positive reinforcement from others who recognize their piece."

Perhaps no Seattle tagger was as prolific (or as caught) as Max Dornfeld. He was expelled from high school for graffiti in 1995, when he was 15. At last count, he had tagged in three countries and four states. He had been arrested 48 times, charged 74 times, convicted at least 29 times. He caused thousands of dollars in damage. He picked a tag particularly hostile to police. Sometimes they had to chase him. Once, he jumped out a bus window trying to escape.

He finally got sentenced to a year in jail before apparently leaving town.

Graffiti writers use the side of a West Seattle overpass as a constant canvas. It gives them a measure of night-time seclusion, a good surface and a display for their finished products from a stretch of Alki Beach below.

Each week, the 50-foot-long, 8-foot-tall wall is plastered with work representing various styles, abilities and maturity levels. The grassy shelf on which they stood is littered with aerosol and beer cans.

Stacy Frazier, painter crew chief for the Seattle Public Utilities' Graffiti Rangers, and co-worker Houston Bradley make no artistic judgments as they arrive early one morning to erase it all. They start on opposite ends, each toting a roller and a bucket of cement-gray paint. Twenty minutes later, they meet in the middle and the slate is wiped clean.

It will be marked up within a week. The rangers will return to buff it clean. Taggers come back. Rangers buff again. A tit-for-tat conversation, you might say.

"Prompt removal is the key," says Frazier. "They will test you over and over again, but we keep it up, letting them know we'll be back. Hopefully, they'll get bored someday, grow up and find something else to do."

The rangers work primarily on the city property the agency manages. Calls collected on its hotline are routed to the appropriate agency. The school district and various other governmental agencies must buff their own property. The north end of the city gets hit hardest, or at least that is where most of the calls come from. The state Department of Transportation cleans up 10,000 square feet of graffiti a day in the Seattle area.

Just as graffiti encompasses a range of effort and ability, the spots the rangers have to buff - usually in direct response to citizen complaints - vary between big and small. After erasing the West Seattle piece, Frazier and Bradley cruise through the Central Area. They mop dark brown paint on tagged wood poles. They spray and wipe clean various markings on utility boxes. They obscure stickers on a trash

can by painting it a new coat of dark green. One complaint turns out to be about a one-inch crayon scribble on a residential street hydrant.

"If you don't remove the tags, it sends a message to the vandal that it's not important enough to respond," says Vic Roberson, a Seattle Public Utilities manager who oversees the city's graffiti hotline and cleanup crew.

"Ignore it and you invite them to come again. We're telling them you come and we'll wipe you out."

If it is all about being seen, what do you make of a tree-shrouded wall along the east edge of the Woodland Park Zoo? If nothing else, it's a sampling of the various graffiti types: tags, bubble and shadow letters, two dominant pieces of mural quality, and simple declarative statements like, "freedom is free."

Like Dobrowolsky, Irina Gendelman and Giorgia Aiello are graduate students and co-directors of Urban Archives. They peruse the 25-yard-long by 15-foot-tall wall and regard the space, styles and intents.

The three grad students united from different disciplines but the same interest in unofficial communication. They began the archives project in 2004, and in addition to amassing images, they direct students who work for academic credit by documenting all sorts of public communication, including yard and car art. One student study surveyed bathroom-stall texts.

The project's site is urbanarchives.org, which contains a link to a searchable database of images. Graffiti accounts for about half of the site's 4,000 images from here and elsewhere. Many would just like it all to disappear, but Aiello emphasizes that their task is not to judge whether graffiti is good or bad but to consider it and other unofficial street signs as part of the dialogue.

"We think it is important as historical record," Aiello says. "How do people out of the mainstream communicate and shape culture? It's important, because where does a researcher go to find an alternative record?"

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